

# 2005 Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005)

## Foster Creek Conservation District



### Most Significant Natural Resource Accomplishment

- In September the Douglas County Watershed Planning Association (DCWPA) completed the Moses Coulee and Foster Creek Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 44/50 Watershed Management Plan.
- The plan recommends actions for water quantity, water quality, fish habitat, and instream flows.
- The plan was developed using consensus by representatives from local communities; local, state, and federal government; agriculture, horticulture, and economic development groups; conservation groups and six citizen at large members.
- The Plan has been approved by the Douglas, Okanogan and Grant County Commissioners.



### Mission of the Foster Creek Conservation District

- To protect natural resources; enhance sustainable, profitable agriculture; and improve the quality of life in Douglas County by:
- Encouraging good land stewardship through education, incentives, and quality technical assistance.
- Protecting individual private property rights.
- Building strong coalitions with other groups.
- Including government assistance as a valid conservation partner to agriculture, by providing quality, intelligent, technical assistance to cooperators and partners.

### Natural Resource Improvements in 2005 - Summary

- Facilitate and administer HB 2514 Watershed Planning for WRIA's 44 & 50. The mission of the Douglas County Watershed Planning Association is to determine water resource concerns and develop an action plan to address these concerns for approximately 1,307,816 acres in WRIA's 44 & 50.
- The continued development of a county-wide Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan for agricultural lands in Douglas County to protect twenty species and their associated habitat. Twenty-seven local citizens and agency people participate on two MSHCP Committees.
- Continuation of biocontrol program to control invasive weed species. This has resulted in over 150 site visits with the improvement of water quality and habitat on 128 properties within Douglas County.
- Continued stream monitoring on over one-hundred forty stream miles in Douglas County which will result in the improvement of riparian area along approximately fifty miles of stream in Douglas County.
- Over ten local citizens and agency people participated in the Lead Entity for HB2496 Salmon Recovery in Douglas Co. and the Fifth Round of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board process.

### Water Quality Implementation

- Continuation of biocontrol program to control invasive weed species. This has resulted in over 150 site visits with the improvement of water quality and habitat on 128 properties within Douglas County.
- Photo monitoring on over 622,718 acres of biocontrol releases to ensure that BMP's are working properly.
- Stream monitoring on over one-hundred forty stream miles in Douglas County which will result in the improvement of riparian area along approximately fifty miles of stream in Douglas County.
- Surface and groundwater monitoring in Douglas County. This will result in the improvement of riparian areas, water quality, and water quantity along 487 acres of lakes and 40 wells in Douglas County.
- The continued development of a GIS database for Douglas County. This information has been used in assisting district personnel in developing farm plans and addressing several natural resource issues in Douglas County.



### Basic Funding

- Foster Creek Conservation District's Sage Grouse and Settlers Conference. The goal of the conference was to bring together local stakeholders, environmental groups, local, state, and federal elected officials to observe on-the-ground conservation in a collaborative atmosphere. The conference attracted close to 100 participants.
- The regional Envirothon this year attracted over thirty area high school students. The mission of the Envirothon is to develop knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated citizens who are willing to work towards achieving and maintaining a natural resource balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.
- Earth Day Water Quality Education for approximately 100 middle school students in Douglas County.
- Over 2,500 fair goers had the opportunity to view a demonstration of current noxious weeds and potential new invaders in Douglas County along with a display of all of the Foster Creek Conservation District's activities.
- Foster Creek Conservation District's Annual meeting attracts over seventy-five local residents. Issues that are discussed range from well water sampling, Douglas County HCP, possible biocontrol releases, watershed issues, along with Farm Bill Updates for NRCS and FSA.
- The continued development of a GIS database for Douglas County. This information has been used in assisting district personnel in developing farm plans and addressing several natural resource issues in Douglas County.



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## Local Funding

- Foster Creek Conservation District's Sage Grouse and Settlers Conference. The goal of the conference was to bring together local stakeholders, environmental groups, local, state, and federal elected officials to observe on-the-ground conservation in a collaborative atmosphere. The conference attracted close to 100 participants.
- Foster Creek Conservation District's Annual meeting attracts over seventy-five local residents. Issues that are discussed range from well water sampling, Douglas County HCP, possible biocontrol releases, watershed issues to Farm Bill updates for NRCS and FSA.
- "Hiking with Sagebrush Sam" was the appropriately titled environmental education program presented to 146 Northern Douglas County first through fourth grade students. The program consisted of activities and a slide show of plants and animals seen in shrub-steppe country.
- Earth Day Water Quality Education for approximately 100 middle school students in Douglas County.
- Over 2,500 fair goers had the opportunity to view a demonstration of current noxious weeds and potential new invaders in Douglas County along with a display of all of the Foster Creek Conservation District's activities.



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## Professional Engineering – WSCC Cluster Engineering Grant

- Survey and technical assistance to the East Foster Creek Project.
- Survey and technical assistance on approximately one-hundred forty stream miles in Douglas County to assist the Douglas County Watershed Planning efforts.

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## Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- Stream monitoring on over one-hundred forty stream miles in Douglas County which will result in the improvement of riparian area along approximately fifty miles of stream in Douglas County.
- Surface and groundwater monitoring in Douglas County. This will result in the improvement of riparian areas, water quality, and water quantity along 487 acres of lakes and 40 wells in Douglas County.



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## Community Collaboration & Coordination

- Lead Agency for the Douglas County Watershed Planning Association is a thirty-five member stakeholder group consisting of 17 members local governments (conservation district, school districts, county, city and irrigation districts), two federal government representatives, three state government members, four representatives from the agricultural commodity/economic groups, one environmental conservation group, and eight citizen members at large.
- The Douglas County Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan is being developed to promote the quality of life in Douglas County by enhancing and protecting twenty species and their associated habitat while at the same time providing regulatory certainty and protection from incidental takings for approximately five hundred local farmers, ranchers, and orchardists. Twenty-seven members, representing local citizens and 13 agencies, sit on this committee.

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## Marketing/Outreach & Education

- Foster Creek Conservation District's Sage Grouse and Settlers Conference. The goal of the conference was to bring together local stakeholders, environmental groups, local, state, and federal elected officials to observe on-the-ground conservation in a collaborative atmosphere. The conference attracted close to 100 participants.
- Conservation Voices Quarterly Newsletter reaches over nine hundred individuals throughout Douglas County. Its mission is to educate individuals regarding natural resources while enhancing sustainable, profitable agriculture.
- The regional Envirothon this year attracted over forty area high school students. The mission of the Envirothon is to develop knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated citizens who are willing to work towards achieving and maintaining a natural resource balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.
- Foster Creek Conservation District's Annual meeting attracts over seventy-five local residents. Issues that are discussed range from well water sampling, Douglas County MSHCP, possible biocontrol releases, watershed issues to Farm Bill updates for NRCS and FSA.
- Surface and groundwater monitoring in Douglas County. This will result in the improvement of riparian areas, water quality, and water quantity along 487 acres of lakes and 40 wells in Douglas County.
- Earth Day Water Quality Education for approximately 100 middle school students in Douglas County.
- Over 2,500 fair goers had the opportunity to view a demonstration of current noxious weeds and potential new invaders in Douglas County along with a display of all of the Foster Creek Conservation District's activities.
- "Hiking with Sagebrush Sam" was the appropriately titled environmental education program presented to 146 Northern Douglas County first through fourth grade students. The program consisted of activities and a slide show of plants and animals seen in shrub-steppe country.

